

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/055,964

Examiner

Gary C. Vieaux

Applicant(s)

IKEDA, JUNICHI

Art Unit

2612

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 1/28/2002.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-27.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:  
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.  
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached  
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date <u>1/28/02</u> | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                               |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material                              | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

## **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on the following date is in  
5 compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97 and was considered by the Examiner:  
January 28, 2002.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 1-27 are allowed.

10 The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

the prior art is not found to teach or fairly suggest, in combination with the  
existing elements of the present claim, white balance control comprising a high-  
luminance weighting part converting the evaluation values of each of the regions into a  
base white balance control amount, calculating a non-weighted white balance control  
15 amount from the base white balance control amount and a weighted white balance  
control amount by performing weighting processing on the base white balance control  
amount by using the luminance value of each of the regions so that a region of higher  
luminance has a greater weight, and calculating a white balance control amount to be  
applied to the image data at a time of image recording by using the weighted and non-  
20 weighted white balance control amounts.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later  
than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

5           The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Haruki et al. (US 5,282,022) discloses regional white balance adjustment.

Okazaki (US 6,795,115) discloses white balance with weighted luminance values.

10          Tamura et al. (US 5,517,333) discloses white balance involving average luminance values adjusted by a correction coefficient.

Taura (US 6,670,987) discloses white balance correction involving both high and normal luminance values.

15          Taniguchi et al. (US 5,619,347) discloses white balance adjustment by weighting values via coefficients.

### ***Contact***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gary C. Vieaux whose telephone number is 571-272-  
20 7318. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:00am - 4:00pm.

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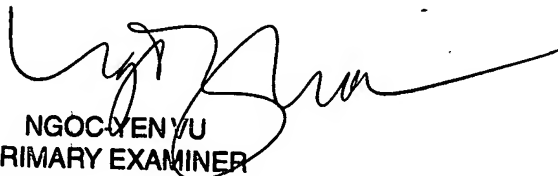
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, NgocYen T. Vu can be reached on 571-272-7320. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

- 5 Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic
- 10 Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Gary C. Vieaux  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2612

Gcv2

  
NGOCYEN YU  
PRIMARY EXAMINER